

# *News Clippings*

## *March 12, 2009*

### **Emergency Response**

#### **Brown County**

Deputies, civilian earn Medal of Valor

[Read the Article](#)

#### **Greencastle**

North Putnam to conduct tornado drills next week

[Read the Article](#)

### **Fire**

#### **Indianapolis**

\$1.1 Million Awarded to Indiana Fire Departments

[Read the Article](#)

#### **Muncie**

Vacancy in fire investigator position puts heat on mayor, fire chief

[Read the Article](#)

#### **Indianapolis**

Fire Ruins Downtown Apartment Project

[Read the Article](#)

### **Flooding**

#### **Fort Wayne**

Flood fighting efforts continue

[Read the Article](#)

#### **Indianapolis**

Flooding causes some evacuations in northern Indiana

[Read the Article](#)

**Indianapolis**

Victims asked to report their flood damage

[Read the Article](#)

**Lafayette**

Runoff coming, official warns

[Read the Article](#)

**Delphi**

Flooding troubles parts of Indiana

[Read the Article](#)

**Gary**

As rivers swell, north, south brace for flooding

[Read the Article](#)

**Severe Weather****Indianapolis**

Severe storms spread damage across Indiana

[Read the Article](#)

**Indianapolis**

Storm Winds Overturn School Bus in Indianapolis

[Read the Article](#)

**South Bend**

Storms drive through Indiana, cause minor damage, power outages locally

[Read the Article](#)

**Indianapolis**

Victims Of Severe Weather Urged To Report Damage

[Read the Article](#)

## WISH – 8 TV

# Deputies, civilian earn Medal of Valor

### Men credited with saving man from burning home

Updated: Wednesday, 04 Mar 2009, 10:59 PM EST  
Published : Wednesday, 04 Mar 2009, 10:51 PM EST

- [Daniel Miller](#)
- Edited by Andrew Bonner

BROWN COUNTY, Ind. - Two Brown County Sheriff's Deputies received the governor's highest honor Wednesday night. The two deputies risked their lives to rescue a man from his burning home.

Weeks after their heroic actions, the two officers and a civilian were honored with Indiana's Medal of Valor.

On February 13, Brown County deputies Rick Followell, Bill Southerland found flames coming from the roof of a home located on State Road 46. The homeowners were outside screaming for help because their son was trapped inside.

Deputies Followell and Southerland rushed inside to help.

"We just happen to be the guys on duty that night and we were close. It just happen to work that night for us, and for him fortunately," said Followell.

Indiana State Fire Marshall Jim Greeson honored deputies Followell and Southerland for their sacrifice.

"What these people did was insure that Mark Badgley lived," said Greeson.

"We just went in and did our job and got the guy out, like anyone of them would have done," said Followell.

The Brown County Volunteer Fire Department also honored Brett Dudley. Dudley called 911 to report the fire and entered the burning home to awake the family.

[Back to Top](#)

## **North Putnam to conduct tornado drills next week**

Thursday, March 12, 2009

North Putnam Community School Corporation will be conducting tornado drills next week in conjunction with Indiana's Severe Weather Preparedness Week on March 15-21.

Schools typically conduct these drills during the school day. North Putnam will take it a step further and conduct drills at the end of the school day that will involve the school buses.

Because of these drills, bus dismissal will be delayed 15-20 minutes while the schools conduct the drills.

"We plan to take two days to conduct these drills. One day we'll focus on the two elementary schools. On the other day, the drill will be conducted at the middle and high schools," said Kevin Emsweller, Assistant to the Superintendent.

According to the National Weather Service, "tornadoes can occur any time of day or night, any time of the year. In Indiana, peak tornado occurrences are from April to June and between 3 and 8 p.m."

"We have been finding this true. In previous years, we had a couple of severe storm warnings in the spring, close to dismissal time and when we had buses on the road. A few years ago, in November, a tornado warning was issued just as we were beginning to dismiss the buses, said Emsweller. "Students were kept at school for over an hour until the storm passed."

After that incident, North Putnam school personnel looked at what went right and what needed to be changed. A major concern was the evacuation of the buses and moving a large number of students to the school's designated safe areas.

"This is something we want to see if the changes we are making to our procedures will work. This will be the fourth year for us to conduct this type of drill," said Emsweller.

Governor Mitch Daniel proclaimed March 15-21 as "Severe Weather Preparedness Week." The National Weather Service, in cooperation with the Department of Education, state and local Homeland Security units, state and local police, other public groups and units of governments will conduct a statewide severe weather/tornado drill.

The National Weather Service has established an evening drill exercise on Wednesday, March 18 between 7-7:30 p.m. Parents are encouraged to practice appropriate severe weather procedures at home with their families.

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Story URL: <http://www.bannergraphic.com/story/1509695.html>

[Back to Top](#)



## **\$1.1 Million Awarded to Indiana Fire Departments**

*InsideIndianaBusiness.com Report*

**The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighters Grant program is giving \$1.1 million in funds to 15 Indiana fire departments. Fourteen departments will receive grants for operations and safety and the Schererville Fire Department will receive a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant.**

**Source: Inside Indiana Business**

### **Press Release**

U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar was notified today that 15 Indiana fire departments will receive funds from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program totaling \$1,100,202. 14 fire departments received grants for operations and safety and the Schererville Fire Department received a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant.

AFG funds are utilized by the nation's firefighters to increase the effectiveness of firefighting and emergency response operations, and to improve firefighter health and safety programs. Schererville's SAFER grant will provide funds to hire additional staff.

In Fiscal Year 2008, AFG was administered by FEMA's Grant Programs Directorate in cooperation with the U.S. Fire Administration. The AFG Program provides grants on a competitive basis to rural, urban and suburban fire departments throughout the United States.

Fire departments with questions about the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program may reach the fire grants help desk toll free at 1-866-274-0960 or [firegrants@dhs.gov](mailto:firegrants@dhs.gov). For the most current information regarding the AFGP, visit [www.firegrantsupport.com](http://www.firegrantsupport.com).

Questions regarding the application process may be directed to Andrew Mills, Grants Coordinator, by phone at 202-224-4814 or by email at [grants@lugar.senate.gov](mailto:grants@lugar.senate.gov).

The following departments received grants:

Organization Name  
Program Area  
Amount  
City

Jackson Township Volunteer Fire Company Incorporated  
Operations and Safety

\$38,654

Palmyra

Princeton Fire Territory

Operations and Safety

\$23,459

Princeton

Hamilton Volunteer Fire Department

Operations and Safety

\$73,815

Hamilton

Waveland Community Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

Operations and Safety

\$9,975

Waveland

Lincoln Township Volunteer Fire Department

Operations and Safety

\$46,422

Thayer

Monroe Twp. Cowan Fire Dept.

Operations and Safety

\$29,750

Muncie

Warren Volunteer Fire Department

Operations and Safety

\$34,580

Warren

Crown Point Fire Rescue

Operations and Safety

\$89,997

Crown Point

Honey Creek Department of Fire & Rescue, Inc.

Operations and Safety

\$53,058

Terre Haute

Lakes of the Four Seasons Volunteer Fire Force, Inc.

Operations and Safety

\$36,537

## Crown Point

Indianapolis Fire Department  
Operations and Safety  
\$49,040  
Indianapolis

Salem Center Vol. Fire & Rescue Department Inc.  
Operations and Safety  
\$27,992  
Hudson

Frankton Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.  
Operations and Safety  
\$220,800  
Frankton

Frankfort Fire Department  
Operations and Safety  
\$40,983  
Frankfort

Schererville Fire Department  
Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response  
\$325,140  
Schererville

Source: The office of Richard Lugar

[Back to Fire](#)



March 9, 2009

## Vacancy in fire investigator position puts heat on mayor, fire chief

By **KELLY DAY**

*kday@muncie.gannett.com*

MUNCIE -- Mayor Sharon McShurley and Muncie Fire Chief Eric Wilson are once again at odds, this time over the mayor's refusal to fill the fire department's vacant chief fire investigator position.

McShurley defends that decision as a cost-saving measure. Instead she has asked the department to form an investigative team of 15 firefighters who would share the work.

"We do not have any money to provide the same level of structure that we currently have," the mayor said. "The longer that we resist change, the longer it's going to hurt the city financially.

"To be resistant to change, to try to scare the community (into believing) that we can't change, is very self-serving of the fire department," she added.

Wilson claims that without a designated person to head investigations, the department could end up paying more in overtime.

This would be especially true as investigative team members train to become certified. During the certification process, the department will have to call on the state fire marshal's office, which is funded by state tax dollars, to investigate all fires.

"It's perceived savings, it's not real savings," Wilson said.

And the state fire marshal's office, which has 10 fire investigators serving the 92 counties in Indiana, might not be able to come to Muncie if another fire takes priority, according to John Erickson, spokesman for the Indiana Department of Homeland Security.

"We will certainly help when we can, but there's no way we can replace a local investigator," Erickson said. "Cities the size of Muncie tend to have their own investigator."

Wilson worries that taking on all Muncie investigations would place too much of a burden on the state. When a state investigator can't respond promptly, city firefighters or police officers will have to guard the scene to protect evidence -- racking up more overtime, he said.

"I'm sure that when we get a string of (fires) together, and it happens occasionally, their patience might run thin and their availability may be problematic," the fire chief said.

Wilson advocated for an internal candidate to be promoted, at a cost of about \$12,000 more than their current salary, to take over the investigator job. Wilson said the department would not need to hire anyone new.

McShurley, in response, questions why fire department officials have clung to their insistence on a 110-person department if Wilson now admits at least one position doesn't need to be filled.

The mayor also declined Wilson's request to hire a deputy chief. While the fire department used to have 10 administrative employees on its staff, it now has now only six.

[Back to Fire](#)

# Fire Ruins Downtown Apartment Project

INDIANAPOLIS, IN -- Blocked of streets and heavy traffic kept commuters trickling into downtown at a slow pace throughout the morning.

A few didn't make into work at all.

It took Heather Hicks, 90 minutes to get from her Southside home to her jobs at Indiana Dental Association, just south of the fire scene on the canal. It took 40 minutes alone to navigate Downtown streets because of congestion around Ohio and West Streets.

## **INDY STAR: PHOTO GALLERY**

Once she got to the office, only one on the 12-person staff who had made it in.

Katie and Ryan Sawrie didn't make it to work. The couple lives in the Canal Overlook apartments just south of the fire scene.

Fire hoses on the street prevented them from moving their cars out of the parking garage. They stood outside snapping pictures of the scene.

"We thought we'd come out and check out the action since we weren't going anywhere anyways" said Katie Sawrie, 23.

## **11 AM - Fire may be city's biggest in 20 years**

The buildings involved in today's fire, believed to be the biggest in 20 years, include the luxury apartments, a parking garage and a cafe. The fourth building, which sits adjacent to the Cosmopolitan complex, is the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana which also suffered some fire damage, IFD said.

Damage appeared to be contained to the city block - bordered by the Canal to the West, Senate to the East, Michigan to the North and Indiana Ave. to the South - even though large chunks of burning embers were wind-blown throughout Downtown; bushes across the street caught fire and an unidentified apartment complex was evacuated, with those occupants placed in IndyGo buses to warm up on a 23-degree day.

The fire, which started out as a box alarm at 3:20 a.m., was upgraded to a third alarm within 14 minutes.

Firefighters were hampered somewhat by the fact that the building was still two weeks away from having the sprinkler system activated.

According to veteran firefighters on the scene, today's blaze was the largest volume of fire they've seen in downtown Indianapolis since the Bemis Bag fire in 1989.

## **10:43 AM -- Stubborn fire won't give in**

Just after 10 a.m. smoke continued to billow from the Cosmopolitan on the Canal and over Downtown Indianapolis as fire crews kept a steady fight from ladders taller than the six-story structure.

Indianapolis firefighters poured many streams of water into the northeastside and southwestside of the building.

The westernmost part of the building under construction was only a skeleton of beams and smoldering debris.

Along Senate Avenue and Michigan streets, the facade remained intact, but water poured though broken windows and icicles formed on the balconies.

The cold weather challenged firefighters, some of who slipped on icy surfaces. While ambulance crews stood by, no one had been reported injured as of 10:30 a.m.

## **9:50 AM -- Owners say they will rebuild**

The owners of a 218-unit apartment complex gutted by fire today say they will rebuild on the Downtown site.

The first seven apartments would have been ready for tenants in May. Granite counter tops, flooring, and cabinets were install and the units were waiting for appliances.

This is our signature property in Indianapolis," Jerry Collins, president Flaherty and Collins Properties. "It's heartbreaking to sit and watch it burn."

Collins said the Cosmopolitan on the Canal would be rebuilt as soon as possible.

Six hours after the fire struck, 125 firefighters still battled flames, which had gutted much of the structure.

## **EARLIER**

An early morning fire destroyed much of a \$28 million apartment development under construction Downtown feeding a pillar of smoke that could be seen for miles and disrupting Downtown traffic.

The fire was reported at 3:20 a.m. sending more that 125 firefighters rushing to the Cosmopolitan on the Canal, a six-story project with 340,000-square-feet on the Downtown Canal about 3:20 a.m. About two-thirds of the luxury housing complex - which was to open in May -- was destroyed. The site also houses the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, which sustained damage.

"They are trying to save as much of the front (part) as they can," said Indianapolis Fire Department Capt. Rita Reith.

She said the fire began at the Cosmopolitan on the Canal, 310 W. Michigan St., being built in the vicinity of the North-Senate-Michigan corridor, and damaged the roof and uppers floors of the historic landmarks building at 310 W. Michigan St.

The fire raged for over two hours and sent embers flying around, catching some trees on fire. "We've been in defensive mode because it is unsafe for firefighters," said Reith. No injuries were immediately reported.

Just after 8 a.m. smoke had dissipated enough to show the skeleton of the structure.

Heat from the fire cracked windows at the Lewis Wagner law firm and even warped a photo on a windowsill.

John Trimble, managing partner at Lewis Wagner law firm, said he his colleagues were dejected the by the destruction next door.

"We were looking forward to the eating places that were going to be there and the extra activity", he said. "Everybody is really sad to see the damage, but relieved that our building was spared. If the wind had gone a direction it could have been a different outcome."

Commuters found choked streets Downtown.

A few people passing by the fire scene on Downtown streets stopped to take pictures or watch as firefighters worked to extinguish the flames.

Colby Smith, 33, was driving back to Indianapolis from Cleveland, Ohio when he got a text message from a friend about the massive fire. Driving west along I-70 he said he could see "billows of smoke."

Smith, who lives a few blocks away at Canal Square, said he was most concerned about the damage to the Landmarks Foundation building, which is in his neighborhood.

"I do like the old architecture of the city," he said. "You don't like to see when it gets damaged."

Most people could see and smell the smoke - which was still covering parts of Downtown at 7:45 a.m.; a grayish plume wafted over the Statehouse and high-rise buildings such as the One America building.

Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard this morning spoke to reporters at the scene, praising the work of the firefighters to contain the damage to a city block.

**Additional Facts**

Major Downtown Indianapolis Fires

May 14, 2001: Andover Apartments, 2242 N. College Ave.

August 8, 1999: T.J. Maxx, Market & Illinois Streets

March 2, 1997: Canterbury Apartments, East 16th St & North Central Ave.

September 14, 1994: Home Lumber and Supply Co., 901 E. New York St.

February 8, 1994: F. Cohn & Sons (warehouse building), 441 S. Illinois St.

March 23, 1993: Academy Apartments, 1350 N. Meridian St.

January 9, 1993: Savoy Apartment Building

February 5, 1992: Indianapolis Athletic Club, two firefighters, one guest died.

February 24, 1990: Savory Apartment Building; 1 dead.

November 5, 1973: Grant Building

January 7, 1972: Hilton Hotel

July 27, 1970: Midstate Chemical

July 17, 1967: Hygrade Food Products

June 23, 1967: Claypool Hotel

January 30, 1958: Tomlinson Hall

Indy Star

[Back to Fire](#)

## Flood fighting efforts continue

### **City keeping a watchful eye on river levels.**

Updated: Thursday, 12 Mar 2009, 8:59 AM EDT

Published : Wednesday, 11 Mar 2009, 9:35 PM EDT

- [Janice Allen](#)

FORT WAYNE, Ind., (WANE) -- - The city's still trying to dry out from the inches of water dumped over the past few days.

Crews have had their hands full fighting flooded streets and neighborhoods.

"We had so much rain from Sunday to Wednesday, and it's such a large volume of rain," says City Spokesman Frank Suarez.

Across Fort Wayne, high waters are causing traffic headaches for dozens of drivers. Wednesday morning, long lines of cars stretched outside downtown as flood waters forced Clinton to shut down a number of lanes.

Suarez explains, "The pipes fill up so quickly with all the water we've had, there's just no place for it to go."

Mayor Tom Henry says, "We are addressing it with a number of pumps throughout the city. Our city people, our works people are really making a tremendous effort I think, to try and protect homes."

In Waynedale, the situation's also pretty serious. Rising waters are threatening a number of homes there and that brought firefighters out Wednesday to talk to people about possibly evacuating.

"They were literally going door to door knocking and saying to people water is rising and now is the easiest time to get out," explains Susan Banta with the Fort Wayne Fire Department.

According to Mayor Henry, December's ice storm may be hindering some of the flood fighting efforts.

He says, "A lot of the twigs and branches did get into our sewer system so they're blocking the flow of water. We have water being blocked at some of the smaller bridges because of all the debris."

City officials tell NewsChannel 15 crews will be out throughout Wednesday night pumping water.

Suarez says the city's also keeping an eye on the rivers; the Saint Mary's is starting to recede, but the Maumee River has yet to crest.

But there is some good news: crews believe that the falling temperatures and winds will actually help waters to recede now that the rain is gone.

[Back to Flooding](#)

## Flooding causes some evacuations in northern Indiana

WTHR-TV

updated 6:43 p.m. ET, Wed., March. 11, 2009

Flooding has closed roads across northern Indiana as some residents have evacuated low-lying areas.

In northwest Indiana, officials closed the ramp from northbound Interstate 65 to westbound I-90/94 due to high water.

Some people who live along the Tippecanoe River near Delphi have been evacuated. Both the Norway and Oakdale dams were above flood stage Wednesday morning.

There were also evacuations in Remington in Jasper County and Star City in Pulaski County, as well as along the Tippecanoe River in Fulton County.

In Porter County, a woman who drove through a flooded roadway had to be rescued by boat early this morning from a county road just north of the Kankakee River.

Residents of Plymouth and Elkhart were filling sandbags as a precaution.

Carroll County EMA reports extensive flooding with 150 to 200 homes affected. Several of the homes were damaged or destroyed from last year's flood and are empty. Most people evacuated several days ago and did not need to be rescued. The Sheriff's Department went through Wednesday morning and assisted residents who wished to leave. Several county roads are closed but schools are open.

[Back to Flooding](#)

# Post-Tribune

## Victims asked to report their flood damage

(<http://www.post-trib.com/news/1472240.floodsite.article>)

March 12, 2009

**Post-Tribune staff report**

INDIANAPOLIS -- Emergency management officials are compiling data about damage to homes in the area caused by destructive storms that swept through the area.

The information will be used to determine whether the region qualifies for federal disaster assistance, according to Sen. Sue Landske, R-Cedar Lake.

"Citizens will be asked to provide their names, addresses, phone numbers, and descriptions of the damage sustained," Landske said. "Losses can include structural damage to businesses, homes and loss of personal property."

Local governments and private not-for-profit organizations should contact local emergency management agencies, Landske said.

Homeland Security will use the information to help determine losses.

Drenching rains hit the area last weekend, and anxious homeowners continue to eye streams and rivers for signs of flooding.

"It's important to remember this process is only for determining if federal assistance can be pursued," Landske said. "It is not an application for aid. If Indiana qualifies for aid, residents will be informed when and where they can apply for assistance."

Hoosiers can report damage online until March 22 at <http://www.in.gov/dhs/>

For more information, call your local city or county office of emergency management.

[Back to Flooding](#)





March 12, 2009

## Runoff coming, official warns

By *JUSTIN L. MACK*  
*jmack@jconline.com*

Although the forecast calls for clear skies, flooding is still an issue in Tippecanoe County.

According to Tim Batta, Tippecanoe County emergency management deputy director, rain already on the ground is the biggest problem.

"The forecast is clear so we are focused on the rain coming from the north more than anything," said Batta. "It's taking a long time for that past rainfall to come down, but it's on the way."

The flooding has led to some county roads outside Lafayette and Battle Ground being closed. Batta said the worst flooding occurred in the Morning Side Drive and Goldsberry Road areas, where voluntary evacuations have already taken place.

High water caused the closure of Indiana 225, Indiana 43, the 6300 block of Goldsberry Road, the 2900 block of South 950 West, and Pretty Prairie Road.

"We've tried to clear out as many people as we can, but there are a few that still remain in the area," said Batta.

Michelle Goodrich, a resident off Goldsberry Road, thinks the worst part of the flooding is over.

"The flood last year was much worse, and the water didn't do too much damage," said Goodrich. "If it does get bad we'll just have to move around a little bit, but we aren't making any big plans."

Batta said that the Wabash River is expected to crest on Thursday and reach an estimated 22 feet.

At 6 p.m. Wednesday, the Wabash was at 20.94 feet. Flood level for the river is 11 feet.

[Back to Flooding](#)

WWW.IDSNEWS.COM

# INDIANA DAILY STUDENT

Thursday, March 12, 2009 | Last Update at 10:56 AM EDT

## Flooding troubles parts of Indiana

DELPHI, Ind. – Residents evacuated their homes and commuters battled flooded streets Wednesday after days of heavy rain sent northern Indiana rivers spilling out of their banks.

Crews helped people from houses along a stretch of the Tippecanoe River near Lafayette that saw record flooding last winter as water rushed through the Oakdale Dam at the southern end of Lake Freeman.

Rescuers said they had fewer people to evacuate near the Tippecanoe River than last year, when flooding swamped hundreds of homes, because many of those living near the river had already left.

“We’re having a lot less people we’re having to go out and get,” said state Conservation Officer Matt Tholen, who was helping with the evacuations Wednesday. “I think people paid better attention (to the warnings) than before.”

The National Weather Service issued a flash flood warning for the Tippecanoe River and urged those in the area to move to higher ground, although water was not forecast to reach the levels of the January 2008 flood.

A flood warning also was issued for the northern third of the state and counties along the Wabash River in western Indiana.

High water caused other scattered evacuations and road closings, mostly in flood-prone areas.

Fort Wayne received more than four inches of rain since Saturday, including about 1.5 inches Tuesday and nearly two inches Sunday. Backed-up sewers caused flooding on many city streets, and residents gathered to stack sandbags in front of houses along the St. Mary’s River.

“It’s like this every time it rains,” said Travis Simms, who lives in the area. “But everybody helps everybody. That’s what community is supposed to be about.”

The city was bringing in extra water pumps, some from Pennsylvania, to help clear sewers.

In northwestern Indiana’s Porter County, a woman who drove through a flooded roadway had to be rescued by boat Wednesday from a county road just north of the Kankakee River.

“A woman driving a 16-foot delivery truck decided she was in a canoe and drove through the high water,” sheriff’s Lt. Chris Eckert said.

[Back to Flooding](#)

# Post-Tribune

## As rivers swell, north, south brace for flooding

(<http://www.post-trib.com/news/1469971,flooding.article>)

March 11, 2009

By Erik Potter

### Post-Tribune staff writer

The area's rivers climbed higher Tuesday following Monday night's rain, with reports of flooding in some Gary neighborhoods, but no levee breaks or major thoroughfare closures.

Neighborhood streets and yards in south Gary were underwater Tuesday, with floods hitting east of Interstate 65 and south of Ridge Road.

Joyce Scruggs, who lives on 44th Place in Gary, said she had 2 to 3 feet of standing water in the street and it was creeping to within about 20 feet of her home. She got her small sedan stuck in the mud trying to drive her children to school.

Gary's Sanitation Department removed a carpet that was blocking one of the sewer drains in the neighborhood, but with rain expected to last through the evening, Scruggs wasn't willing to count on everything staying dry.

"It's an ongoing thing -- it happened in September. We replace things time and time again. I've replaced things in this house so many times, I can't afford to replace it again," she said.

Dennis Wilson, who lives in the Miller section of Gary, south of U.S. 12, has a lake of water in his back yard. The water is creeping toward the house and has reached the septic tank, meaning no more showers or clothes washing until it recedes.

"The whole neighborhood is swamped now," Wilson said. If anybody came out here they'd call it a disaster."

Both the Kankakee and Little Calumet rivers should stay within their levees.

The Kankakee River near Shelby caused the most concern, with projections that it would reach to within an inch of its record height of 13 feet.

Jody Melton, executive director of the Kankakee River Basin Development Commission, was nervous about river levels on Tuesday afternoon. The Kankakee is not projected to crest until Thursday, and it will receive an estimated three-quarters of an inch of rain before then.

"The river is at full capacity, and the ditches are at full capacity, so any rain that falls doesn't have anywhere to go," Melton said.

The river crested at 12.86 feet during the September floods and came through it OK, Melton said. The National Weather Service projects it will peak at 12.9 feet Thursday and hold at that level into next week.

Water-filled potholes caused the closure of one westbound lane of the Borman Expressway near Broadway on Tuesday. Standing water also meant closures on sections of Martin Luther King Drive and Colfax Street in Gary.

The Little Calumet River stayed well below its record stage. The river reached more than 17 feet in September, but is expected to stay under 14 feet in the current storm.

Munster brought out sand bags Monday night to the Northcote Avenue and Columbia Avenue bridges as a precaution, but never had to deploy them.

The town has been considering purchasing a portable water bladder that replace sandbags at Northcote. "It's supposed to be a better way, a faster, more secure way to close (the road) off," Councilwoman Helen Brown said.

The bladder is filled with water and is deployed like an inflatable levee across the road.

Town manager Tom DeGiulio had the sales company erect the bladder across Northcote Tuesday afternoon as a demonstration.

Contact Erik Potter at 648-3120, or [epotter@post-trib.com](mailto:epotter@post-trib.com). Comment on this story at [www.post-trib.com](http://www.post-trib.com).

### **Kankakee River**

Flood stage on the Kankakee River is 9 feet. Levees help control most of the water, but damage starts accruing past that point. The National Weather Services outlines expected damage at different flood stages:

\* 9 feet: Lowland agricultural flooding begins.

\* 10 feet: Flooding affects county and local roads. Wildwood Estates and Sumava Resorts begin to experience some flooding.

\* 11.5 feet: Flood waters surround a number of homes located 1 mile east of Sumava Resorts. Some homes are affected just across the state line in Illinois.

\* 12.5 feet: Water flows over part of U.S. 41.

\* 13 feet: Indiana 55 is flooded. Extensive flooding occurs to the Sumava Resorts area. Water approaches the top of levees.

Source: [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov)

### **Little Calumet River**

Flood stage on the Little Calumet River is 12 feet. Levees help control most of the water, but damage starts accruing past that point. The National Weather Services outlines expected damage at different flood stages:

\* 12 feet: Minor overbank flooding immediately adjacent to the river begins.

\* 15 feet: Flooding begins to affect some residences near the river.

Source: [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov)

[Back to Flooding](#)

## Severe storms spread damage across Indiana

WTHR-TV

updated 4:13 p.m. ET, Mon., March. 9, 2009

Indianapolis - Severe thunderstorms packing high winds raked much of Indiana on Sunday, leaving thousands of power customers in the dark and causing some property damage.

The National Weather Service confirmed Monday a tornado touched down near Fayetteville in Lawrence County after surveying the damage.

The winds lifted a school bus off the ground there and dropped it on top of where a house once stood.

"It got blown plum up the hill, rolled it over the hill into where the house is at," said Scott Ramsey, whose in-laws lived in the house.

Ramsey is related to the residents in each of the destroyed homes.

"It's Indiana. You never know when you're going to have weather like this," Ramsey said.

He knew it was coming and already had his family in the basement, but at the last minute, he went to the garage to get something.

"When I opened by garage door, the main door's getting sucked out and I just turned and ran towards the middle of the house where the stairway is and I made it about to the third or fourth step down when I got blown down to the bottom," Ramsey said.

He landed on his back, just in time to look up and see his house lifting apart.

"Started seeing daylight, so the house was coming apart. I just covered my head and I took a pounding, then," Ramsey said. "It just happened in a split second, but it seemed like forever before it was over with."

"He was extremely, extremely lucky. Someone was watching over him this evening," said Lawrence County Sheriff Sam Craig.

Pictures taken with a cell phone showed a funnel cloud in the area.

Ramsey's wife, Wendy, was busy Sunday night looking for her wedding rings and other valuables in the debris.

"No luck so far. Lots of silverware, it looks like a lot of the kitchen stuff is over here," she said.

Barns nearby were destroyed along with farm equipment and garages, leaving parts of buildings scattered across the countryside.

Sheriff Craig said 19 houses had been damaged with three of those being completely leveled. No serious or life threatening injuries have been reported at this time.

Power lines and debris still lie on Ridge Road and Fayetteville-Williams Road. Those two roads remain closed until clean up crews can complete their work in that area.

There will be extra patrols throughout the night in the area by troopers and deputies until all valuables are recovered.

To the west, in Odon, high winds also tossed a recreational vehicle on its side, with debris from the mobile home stretched into farm fields. Even with all that damage, the house across the street was untouched.

Duke Energy reported 1,700 customers without power Sunday around 11:30 p.m., including more than 800 in Daviess County.

High winds nearing an estimated 60 miles an hour flipped a semi-trailer in Tippecanoe County. The driver was traveling north on I-65 about 10 miles north of Frankfort when the wind forced his empty vehicle off the road, tearing the roof open.

The driver, who said the wind gusts took him by surprise, was taken to Clarian Arnett Hospital in Lafayette to be checked out.

"He was complaining of some pain in his arm from being bruised and he had a couple of scrapes here and there. But other than that, he seems to be all right," said ISP Trooper Gregg Edwards.

Knox County Emergency Management Director John Streeter said straight line winds flattened some sheds and other outbuildings, and a few homes sustained minor damage. He says there's no report of injuries in Knox County, about 100 miles southwest of Indianapolis.

"We've got so many electric lines down that we're trying to keep people away from the area," Streeter said.

Local emergency management agencies reported a roof off a building in the Logansport area, but it was not clear whether the storm caused any severe damage, said spokesman John Erickson of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security.

The National Weather Service posted high wind warnings for portions of the state.

(The Associated Press contributed to this story.)



## Storm Winds Overturn School Bus in Indianapolis

Monday , March 09, 2009

INDIANAPOLIS —

Strong winds from severe thunderstorms have been raking parts of the Midwest today.

The storm winds have tossed a school bus onto a building, destroyed or damaged homes, and cutoff power to thousands of customers in Indiana and Illinois.

A spokesman for the Indiana Department of Homeland Security says emergency management officials have reported a tornado in Lawrence County. But the National Weather Service hasn't confirmed the reports.

Footage from WTHR-TV in Indianapolis showed a school bus lying atop a flattened building in Fayetteville, about 70 miles south of Indianapolis, where the tornado was reported.

The Lawrence County sheriff says at least 19 houses were damaged, including three that were leveled.

Officials say winds tore the roofs off buildings in northern Indiana and central Illinois.

There were reports of 18 tornadoes across the midwest, including eight in Illinois, four in Indiana, two in Missouri and four in Ohio.





## **Storms drive through Indiana, cause minor damage, power outages locally**

### ***SBT24/7 News Report***

**By WSBT News1**

Story Created: Mar 8, 2009 at 9:05 PM EDT

Story Updated: Mar 9, 2009 at 12:13 AM EDT

A Sunday afternoon storm system has caused power outages in the South Bend area and Kosciusko County. Severe thunderstorms packing high winds raked much of Indiana, tossing a school bus onto a building in southern Indiana and causing other minor property damage elsewhere.

Indiana Michigan Power says 500 of its customers are without power in Elkhart County because of the high winds. A small amount of scattered power outages were reported in Mishawaka, including some traffic lights, because of high winds, dispatch told WSBT-TV. A viewer e-mail to the SBT24/7 News Desk says power outages were in the south side of the city.

The 1700 block of North Elmer Street in South Bend will be closed until tomorrow because a tree in the roadway can't be removed tonight, according to scanner traffic.

About 3,000 members of Kosciusko Rural Electric Membership Corporation were without power in Kosciusko County about 6:15 p.m. High winds caused a tree to fall on a NIPSCO power line this afternoon, according to a news release from Kosciusko REMC. Efforts are underway to switch members to other power sources, and about 1,200 members were expected have their power restored soon.

Farther south in Indiana, local emergency management agencies reported a roof off a building in the Logansport area and a tornado in Lawrence County, said spokesman John Erickson of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security.

WTHR-TV in Indianapolis showed videotape of a school bus lying on its side atop a flattened building in the Lawrence County town of Fayetteville, about 70 miles south of Indianapolis.

Knox County Emergency Management Director John Streeter said straight line winds flattened some sheds and other outbuildings, and a few homes sustained minor damage. He said there was no report of injuries in Knox County, about 100 miles southwest of Indianapolis.

"We've got so many electric lines down that we're trying to keep people away from the area," Streeter said.

Duke Energy reported more than 2,000 customers without power at 6:30 p.m. EST Sunday evening, including more than 800 in Daviess County and 500 in adjacent Lawrence County.

The National Weather Service posted high wind warnings for portions of the state through Monday morning.

**The Associated Press contributed to this report.**



# **Victims Of Severe Weather Urged To Report Damage**

## **By Press Release**

Story Published: Mar 10, 2009 at 10:33 AM EDT

Story Updated: Mar 10, 2009 at 10:33 AM EDT

INDIANAPOLIS (Press Release) - The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) is gathering damage reports from Hoosier citizens, governmental entities and certain private non-profit organizations that sustained damage caused by severe weather, including wind and flooding beginning March 8. Hoosier citizens can report damage online at <https://oas.in.gov/hs/dev/flood/public> until March 22, 2009. Citizens will be asked to provide their name, address, phone number, damage to property and type of damage the property sustained. Losses can include structural damage to businesses, homes and loss of personal property. Government and Private non-profits should contact their local emergency management agency. To find the contact information for your local agency, go to [www.in.gov/dhs/files/Sanitized\\_Compact\\_Directory.pdf](http://www.in.gov/dhs/files/Sanitized_Compact_Directory.pdf).

IDHS will use the information to help quantify losses from severe weather that resulted in high winds, tornadoes and flooding to determine if federal assistance should be requested.

Individuals will not be in contact with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Information will be used to help local emergency management agencies and IDHS determine if federal assistance can be pursued.

IDHS, other State of Indiana agencies and partner organizations have been working closely with local emergency management agencies to determine needs that would require support beyond the county level.